

CLAIMS

Now, therefore, the following is claimed:

1. A communication system, comprising:

5 a plurality of clients;

a plurality of network elements; and

an element management system (EMS) interfaced with the clients and the network
elements, the EMS configured to track which of the network elements are of interest to
the clients, the EMS further configured to automatically monitor the network elements
10 based on which of the network elements are determined, by the EMS, to be of interest to
the clients, the EMS further configured to provide the clients with information indicative
of the monitored elements.

2. The communication system of claim 1, wherein the EMS is configured to

15 detect a change in a state of one of the monitored elements and to provide one of the
clients with information indicative of the state in response to the detected change.

3. The communication system of claim 1, wherein the EMS is configured to

detect a change in a state of one of the monitored elements, and wherein the EMS is

20 further configured to identify which of the clients are interested in the one monitored
element and to provide each of the identified clients with information indicative of the
state in response to the detected change.

4. The system of claim 1, wherein the EMS is configured to identify which of the clients are interested in one of the network elements and to provide each of the identified clients with information indicative of a state of the one network element.

5 5. The system of claim 4, wherein the EMS is configured to transmit the information indicative of the state of the one network to each of the identified clients in response to a determination, by the EMS, that the state has changed.

6. The system of claim 1, wherein the EMS is configured to store graphical
10 user interface (GUI) code defining a GUI associated with one of the network elements, the EMS configured to retrieve the GUI code in response to a request received from one of the clients and to transmit the retrieved GUI code to the one client, wherein the request identifies the one network element.

15 7. The system of claim 6, wherein the EMS is configured to enable a user to update the stored GUI code, and wherein the EMS is further configured to detect an update to the stored GUI code and to transmit the updated GUI code to the one client in response to a detection of the update.

20 8. The system of claim 6, wherein the EMS is configured to maintain data indicative of which of the clients are interested in which of the networks, the EMS configured to update the data in response to the request.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein the one client is configured to display a GUI based on the GUI code transmitted to the one client, the one client further configured to close the GUI in response to a user input and to transmit a message to the EMS upon closing the GUI, wherein the EMS is configured to update the data in response to the message.

10. The system of claim 9, wherein the one client is configured to discard the GUI code transmitted to the one client upon closing the GUI.

11. An element management system (EMS) for managing elements of a communication network, comprising:

means for tracking which of the network elements are of interest to a plurality of clients;

means for automatically monitoring the network elements of interest to the clients based on the tracking means; and

means for providing the clients with information indicative of the monitored elements.

12. The system of claim 11, wherein the monitoring means is configured to detect a change in a state of one of the monitored elements, and wherein the means for providing is configured to transmit the information to one of the clients in response to a detection of the change by the monitoring means.

13. The system of claim 11, wherein the monitoring means is configured to detect a change in a state of one of the monitored elements, and wherein the means for providing is configured to identify which of the clients are interested in the one monitored element and to transmit information indicative of the state to each of the identified clients
5 in response to a detection of the change by the monitoring means.

14. The system of claim 11, wherein the tracking means is configured to identify which of the clients are interested in one of the network elements, and wherein the providing means provides the information based on the tracking means.
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15. The system of claim 11, further comprising:
means for storing graphical user interface (GUI) code defining a GUI associated with one of the network elements;
means for retrieving the GUI code in response to a request received from one of
15 the clients; and
means for transmitting the retrieved GUI code to the one client,
wherein the request identifies the one client.

16. The system of claim 15, further comprising:
20 means for updating the stored GUI code; and
means for detecting an update to the stored GUI code by the updating means,
wherein the transmitting means is configured to transmit the updated code to the one client in response to the detected update.

17. A method for managing elements of a communication network,
comprising the steps of:

tracking which of the network elements are of interest to a plurality of clients;
5 automatically monitoring the network elements based on the tracking step; and
providing the clients with information indicative of the monitored elements.

18. The method of claim 17, further comprising the steps of:
detecting a change in a state of one of the monitored elements based on the
10 monitoring step,
wherein the providing step includes the step of providing one of the clients with
information indicative of the state in response to the detecting step.

19. The method of claim 17, further comprising the steps of:
15 detecting a change in a state of one of the monitored elements; and
identifying which of the clients are interested in the one monitored element based
on the tracking step,
wherein the providing step includes the step of providing each of the identified
clients with information indicative of the state in response to the detecting step.

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20. The method of claim 17, further comprising the step of:
identifying which of the clients are interested in one of the network elements
based on the tracking step,
wherein the providing step includes the step of transmitting, to each of the
5 identified clients, information indicative of a state of the one network element based on
the identifying step.

21. The method of claim 20, further comprising the step of:
detecting a change in a state of the one monitored element,
10 wherein the transmitting step is performed in response to the detecting step.

22. The method of claim 17, further comprising the steps of:
storing graphical user interface (GUI) code remotely from the clients, the GUI
code defining a GUI associated with one of the network elements;
15 retrieving the GUI code in response to a request received from one of the clients;
and
transmitting the retrieved GUI code to the one client,
wherein the request identifies the one network element.

23. The method of claim 22, further comprising the steps of:

enabling a user to update the stored GUI code;

detecting an update to the stored GUI code; and

transmitting the updated GUI code to the one client in response to the detecting

5 step.

24. The method of claim 22, further comprising the steps of:

maintaining data indicative of which of the clients are interested in which of the
network elements; and

10 updating the data in response to the request.

25. The method of claim 24, further comprising the steps of:

displaying a GUI at the one client based on the GUI code transmitted in the
transmitting step;

15 receiving a user input;

closing the displayed GUI in response to the user input; and

updating the data in response to the closing step.

26. The method of claim 25, further comprising the step of:

20 discarding, in response to the closing step, the GUI code transmitted to the one
client.